SITREP.06.02

SITUATION REPORT ON EMERGENCY TRANSBOUNDARY OUTBREAK PESTS (ETOPS) FOR JUNE WITH A FORECAST TILL MID-AUGUST, 2002

SUMMARY

1. Summary: This report provides an update about recent activities on emergency transboundary outbreak pests (ETOPs) in Africa, the Middle_East, Central and Southwest Asia, and Latin America. The report covers ETOP activities in June with a forecast till mid-August, 2002. It addresses the major transboundary outbreak pests, including desert, Italian, migratory, red, brown, Moroccan, and Madagascar migratory locusts, armyworm and the red_billed quelea birds. A brief overview of the current status of each of these pests is provided in the remainder of this summary and detailed accounts are provided thereafter.

2. Desert locust, *Schistocerca gregaria* (Forskal). The desert locust situation remained calm in June in the outbreak areas. Low level infestations of hoppers and adults were treated on 20 ha in Morocco. Small scale breeding is expected to occur in areas that will be receiving the summer rain in Sahelian west Africa. However, significant developments are not likely during the forecast period.

3. Very few individual locusts were sighted in the Red Seas coasts of Saudi Arabia. No locusts were reported in other countries in the Central region. As a result of the good rains that fell during the reporting month and in the prior month in some places, breeding conditions have begun improving in the summer breeding areas of Sudan, eastern Ethiopia, northwestern Somalia and Oman.

4. A few individual locusts were seen in the summer breeding areas along the Indo-Pakistan border. Locust numbers have significantly decreased in the Spring breeding areas of western Pakistan. Small scale breeding could occur in the summer breeding areas in Pakistan and India once the monsoon rains begin, but significant developments are not likely during the forecast period.

5. Red locust, *Nomadacris septemfasciata* (Surville). Large swarms, measuring close to 200 Km2 at densities of up to 50/m2 were seen in the Iku-Katavi, Wembere and Malagarasi outbreak areas, Tanzania. Aerial control operations are being planned for July. Low level localized outbreaks of the red locust were sighted in the Caprivi strip, north eastern Namibia. Since most of the crops, mainly maize and millet, were mature and being harvested, significant damage did not occur from the pest invasion. No further reports were received either from the DLCO/EA or IRLCO/CSA member countries. Nevertheless, due to grass burning that has begun in a few places, it is likely that locusts might have started concentrating in a few patches of green vegetation. The end of the current drought affecting Zambia, Malawi, Swaziland, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, will likely give rise to serious outbreaks of ETOPs which could affect the traditional red locust as well as armyworm outbreak regions in Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia. Post-drought outbreaks of brown locusts may also become more evident in southern

Botswana, southern Namibia and South Africa It is important that routine survey and monitoring activities are implemented.

6. Madagascar migratory locust, *Locusta migratoria capito* (L.). No reports were received on the Malagasy migratory locust in June. Considering the ongoing situation in the country, it is likely that regular survey and monitoring activities are not executed as required. Under such circumstances, the locust situation may become serious following the onset of the rains a couple of months later. It is advisable that any opportunity for carrying out survey and monitoring is encouraged and implemented to minimize the potential for future serious outbreaks.

7. Other locusts and grasshoppers. Adults and hoppers of Brown locust, *Locustana pardalina* (Walker), were reported on three farms in Aus, south west Namibia where they were controlled by farmers. No further outbreaks are expected during the forecast period, nevertheless, vigilant surveillance and monitoring are recommended to avoid any potential damage to crops and pasture. No reports were received on Moroccan or Italian locusts from Central Asia.

8. Armyworm, *Spodoptera exempta* (Walker). Armyworm infestations were reported from south central and eastern regions of Ethiopia from mid to end of May. More than 13,300 ha of maize, sorghum, teff, wheat and pasture were infested. Control operations were implemented with pesticides using ground means. No further reports were received on armyworm activities from the other DLCO/EA member countries. The IRLCO/CSA countries remained free from of armyworm infestations and the region is likely to remain free of the pest during the forecast period.

9. Red_billed quelea, *Quelea quelea* (L.). Quelea birds were reported causing extensive damage to millet in Namibia where manual control was launched by local farmers. A number of roosts were also reported in northern Namibia, but no crop damage was reported. Eleven control operations were undertaken against quelea roosts on some 40 ha in the northern Free State province, South Africa. Quelea birds also continued to pose threats to small grain cereals, including rice, sorghum, and millet, in Arusha, Shinyanga, Singida, Morogoro and Mbeya regions and to wheat in the Arusha region of Tanzania. Control operations were carried out in Arusha, Dodoma, Singida and Morogoro regions on over 810 ha using close to 1400 liters of quelea tox1400 ha. END OF SUMMARY

ENVIRONMENTAL SITUATION: WEATHER AND ECOLOGICAL CONDITIONS
http://www.fews.net/

10. Most of Sahelian west Africa remained dry in May, but summer rains started falling in June in a few places. With the northward oscillation of the Inter Tropical Convergence Zone, the first summer rains begun falling in southern Sahel. Light rains fell in a few places in southern Mauritania, central, western, and northeastern Mali, as well as western and southern Niger. Good rains also fell in the mid-western part of Chad.

11. No significant rainfall was reported in the northwestern Africa. Light showers occurred along the Algeria-Mali border, however, ecological conditions remained unfavorable and vegetation was dry or drying up. Other countries in the region also remained hot and dry.

12. Good rains fell in June in eastern Ethiopia with Jijiga and Dire Dawa reporting 36 mm and 15 mm. Light rains were reported between Hargeisa and Boroma, northwestern Somalia, adjacent to eastern Ethiopia. In Sudan, isolated showers and light rains fell in the summer breeding areas in Northern Darfur, Northern Kordofan, and the White Nile States. Other countries in the eastern Africa region remained fairly dry and breeding conditions largely unfavorable.

13. Widespread light to moderate rains fell in the interior and the coastal plains of northern Oman. The monsoon season has begun in southern Oman where some rains might have fallen. Ecological conditions remained dry and hot in Saudi Arabia and Yemen

14. As a result of the rains that fell in May in the summer breeding areas along the Indo-Pakistan border, conditions have begun improving. Significant cloud covers were seen toward the end of June in the Tharparkar Desert, southeastern Pakistan and the adjacent areas in Rajasthan, India.. The Spring breeding areas of western Pakistan and southeastern Iran remained dry during the reporting month.

15. As the rains came to an end in May in the red and brown locust harboring countries in south-central and southern Africa, breeding conditions remained unfavorable and dry and no significant locust activities were reported in the IRLCO/CSA members countries and other red locust outbreak regions.

DESERT LOCUST ACTIVITY

16. Western and northwestern Africa. Small infestations of fourth and fifth instar hoppers and fledglings at densities of up to 800 insects/ha at three locations between 2839N/0853E and 2923N/0725E were reported in Morocco. The locusts were controlled by ground means on 20 ha. Other countries in these regions remained free of locusts.

17. Forecast: Low numbers of isolated adults may be seen in a few places in Tagant, Trarza, and northern Brakna, Mauritania, Timetrine and Adrar des Iforas, Mali, and Tamesna and Arlit Niger. No locust activities are expected in other Sahelian countries during the forecast period.

18. Eastern and northeastern Africa, and the Near East: No locusts were reported in these regions in June.

19. Forecast: Isolated adults may persist in areas of recent rainfall in Northern Darfur, Northern Kordofan, and the White Nile States, Sudan. Despite the good rains that recently fell in eastern Ethiopia and northwestern Somalia, the likelihood of any significant locust activities is very slim to none. Relatively calm situation is expected to persist during the forecast period in all other countries, including Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Kuwait, UAR, Bahrain, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Qatar, Syria, and Turkey. Nevertheless, routine monitoring remains essential to avert any undetected locust upsurges.

20. Eastern region. Very few isolated immature and mature adults were seen at three locations in the summer breeding areas in Tharparkar Desert, Cholistan and Kandewari, Pakistan. No locusts were reported from India, Iran, and Afghanistan.

21. Forecast: Low numbers of adults are expected to persist in the Tharparkar and Cholistan deserts, Pakistan and Rajasthan, India. No further developments are expected from the other countries in the region during the forecast period.

22. Central Asia: By mid-June, the Moroccan locust, Dociostaurus maroccanus outbreaks were treated on nearly 240,000 ha in Qunduz, Baghlan, Samanga, Baikh, Sar-I-Pol provinces, Afghanistan. Control operations were effected by mechanical and chemical means. The overall crop loss was assessed at about 7%. No locusts were reported from other countries in the region.

23. Forecast: It is likely that large scale egg laying has occurred in a number of areas in northern and northeastern Afghanistan. In anticipation of the high possibility for a widespread laying during the past several weeks, a preventive planning is well underway for the 2003 campaign. As part of this planning process to implement an effective preventive control, it is important that routine survey and monitoring activities are implemented.

24. LAC regions. No reports were received from LAC countries.

25. Forecast. It is likely that locust activities will further diminish and no significant activities are expected during the forecast period.

OTHER LOCUST ACTIVITY

26 Red locust, *N. septemfasciata* (Surville). Large swarms, measuring close to 200 Km^2 at densities of up to 50/m^2 were seen in the Iku-Katavi, Wembere and Malagarasi outbreak areas, Tanzania. Aerial control operations are being planned for July. Low level localized outbreaks of the red locust were sighted in the Caprivi strip, north eastern Namibia. Since most of the crops, mainly maize and millet, were mature and being harvested, significant damage did not occur from the pest invasion. The red locust situation in the other outbreak areas in Zambia, Malawi, and Mozambique were relatively calm. No further reports were received either from the DLCO/EA or IRLCO/CSA member countries. Nevertheless, due to grass burning that has begun in a few places, it is likely that locusts might have started concentrating in a few patches of green vegetation.

27. Forecast: The end of the current drought affecting Zambia, Malawi, Swaziland, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, will likely give rise to serious outbreaks of ETOPs which could affect the traditional red locust as well as armyworm outbreak regions in Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, as well as Madagascar. Post-drought outbreaks of brown locusts may also become more evident in southern Botswana, southern Namibia and South Africa It is important that routine survey and monitoring activities are implemented. It is important that routine survey and monitoring activities are implemented.

28. Madagascar migratory *Locust, locusta migratoria capito* (L.). No reports were received on the Malagasy migratory locust in June. Considering the ongoing situation in the country, it is likely that regular survey and monitoring activities are not executed as required. Under such circumstances, the locust situation may become serious following the onset of the rains a couple of months later. It is advisable that any opportunity for carrying out survey and monitoring is encouraged and implemented to minimize the potential for future serious outbreaks.

29. Other locusts and grasshoppers. Adults and hoppers of Brown locust, *Locustana pardalina* (Walker), were reported on three farms in Aus, south west Namibia where they were controlled by farmers. No further outbreaks are expected during the forecast period, nevertheless, vigilant surveillance and monitoring are recommended to avoid any potential damage to crops and pasture. No reports were received on Moroccan or Italian locusts from Central Asia.

ARMYWORM ACTIVITY

30. Armyworm, *Spodoptera exempta* (Walker). Armyworm infestations were reported from south central and eastern regions of Ethiopia from mid to end of May. More than

13,300 ha of maize, sorghum, teff, wheat and pasture were infested. Control operations were implemented with pesticides using ground means. No further reports were received on armyworm activities from the other DLCO/EA member countries. The IRLCO/CSA countries remained free from of armyworm infestations and the region is likely to remain free of the pest during the forecast period.

31. Forecast: Some armyworm activities are likely to occur in Kenya and northern Tanzania.

QUELEA BIRD ACTIVITY

32. Red_billed quelea, *Quelea quelea* (L.). Quelea birds were reported causing extensive damage to millet in Namibia where manual control was launched by local farmers. A number of roosts were also reported in northern Namibia, but no crop damage was reported. Eleven control operations were undertaken against quelea roosts on some 40 ha in the northern Free State province, South Africa. Quelea birds also continued to pose threats to small grain cereals, including rice, sorghum, and millet, in Arusha, Shinyanga, Singida, Morogoro and Mbeya regions and to wheat in the Arusha region of Tanzania. Control operations were carried out in Arusha, Dodoma, Singida and Morogoro regions on 810 ha using 1400 liters of queleatox.

33. Forecast: Quelea and other grain eating birds are likely to continue posing threats to small grain crops in a few outbreak areas. Breeding will have likely commenced in the traditional breeding areas in Kenya and elsewhere and will continue.

RECOMMENDATIONS

34. Although the current locust and other migratory pest populations, by and large, did not call for significant control actions, some intensive control operations were carried out against different pests in a number of countries. It should be noted that, if left unattended, there is a likelihood for the pest populations to gradually increase in the coming months to a level that could pose serious threats to crops and pasture. Therefore, it is crucial that regular surveillance and monitoring are maintained and that reports are communicated promptly to the appropriate bodies within the national and/or regional systems.

ACTION REQUESTED AND CONTACT INFORMATION

35. The Africa Emergency Locust and Grasshopper Assistance (AELGA) project is administered by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), bureau for Africa (AFR), Office of Sustainable Development (SD), crisis mitigation and recovery division (CMR). AELGA works closely with the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (UN/FAO), DLCO/EA, IRLOC/CSA, Information Core for Southern Africa Migratory Pests (ICOSAMP), USAID bilateral and regional missions, research establishments, and host country ministries to provide continuous monitoring and analysis of crop protection risks associated with ETOPs that have a potential for causing large-scale outbreak emergencies. The purpose of this effort is to acquire data

and information on ETOPs to prepare regular updates and disseminated to all interested stakeholders. Unsolicited reports or information about ETOPs situations and activities in your region or country are welcome and appreciated.

36. Missions with programs on food security, emergency pests and other related activities, host countries and regional organizations with a similar portfolio, as well as other stakeholders are kindly requested to forward your reports by the last day of each month. Please, forward reports, information, questions, and/or requests to Dr. Yene Belayneh, ybelayneh@afr-sd.org FAX: 202-219-0506 with a cc to Drs. Joe Vorgetts (jvorgetts@afr-sd.org) and Harry Bottenberg, Hbottenberg@afr-sd.org

For more information on the weather conditions, please, visit the following web sites:
http://www.fews.net
http://www.fao.org/WAICENT/faoinfo/economic/giews/economic/engslish/esahel/sehtoc.htm

For more information on ETOP activities, you may visit:
http://www.fao.org/news/global/locusts/locuhome.htm
http://www.english/newsroom/news/2002/5000-en.htm/

http://www.icosamp.ecoport.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Interregional Trainer Training Course on Alternative Application Strategies and Tactics (AAST) for acridid control. October, 2002. Contact person, Dr. Yene Belayneh, ybelayneh@afr-sd.org, phone/fax: 202-219-0495/202-219-0506